

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Reissue Application Of) PATENT
John M. Hess, III et al.) Atty. Docket No. SEA0820P0882US
Serial No.: Not Yet Designated)
(Reissue Of Patent No. 6,050,451))
Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
For: DISPENSING STRUCTURE)
INCORPORATING A VALVE-)
CONTAINING FITMENT FOR)
MOUNTING TO A CONTAINER)
AND A PACKAGE WITH A)
DISPENSING STRUCTURE)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED AS PART
OF REISSUE APPLICATION TO ADD CLAIMS

Box REISSUE
Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to C.F.R. §1.173, new claims are herewith presented below.

NEW CLAIMS

Please add new claims 9-19 as follows:

9. A package comprising:

a collapsible pouch defined by at least two, opposing, flexible web portions that are sealed together adjacent an interior region which is unsealed and that are separated at a peripheral region to define an opening to the interior region;

a fitment defining a dispensing passage and having a hollow base that has two lateral ends and that defines two generally oppositely facing walls which converge and

terminate at each of said two lateral ends, each said wall defining an exterior surface portion sealingly secured to one of said web portions along said opening, said fitment hollow base defining at least a portion of said dispensing passage through said fitment, said fitment including a spout that (A) extends from said hollow base, and (B) defines at least a portion of said dispensing passage; and

a flexible valve that (A) is disposed within said hollow fitment across said fitment dispensing passage, and (B) has a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior of said pouch.

10. The package in accordance with claim 9 further including an openable cover on said pouch initially enclosing at least a portion of said spout.

11. The package in accordance with claim 9 further including an openable cover on said pouch in the form of a separate exterior lid that is initially mounted on said spout to occlude said dispensing passage and that can be moved to open said dispensing passage.

12. A package comprising:

a collapsible pouch defined by at least two, opposing, flexible web portions that are sealed together adjacent an interior region which is unsealed and that are separated at a peripheral region to define an opening to the interior region;

a fitment that includes (A) a base sealingly secured to said web portions along said opening, (B) a spout extending from said base and terminating with an end defining a dispensing orifice, and (C) a dispensing passage that extends from said interior region through said base and spout to said dispensing orifice; and

a flexible valve that (A) has a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior of said pouch, and (B) is disposed within said fitment across said fitment dispensing passage inwardly of said dispensing orifice so that said slit is located inwardly of said dispensing orifice below said spout when said slit is closed.

13. The package in accordance with claim 12 in which said fitment base has two lateral ends and defines two generally oppositely facing sidewalls which converge and terminate at each end of said two lateral ends; each said sidewall defines an exterior surface portion sealingly secured to one of said web portions along said opening; and said fitment spout has an outer generally annular end defining said dispensing orifice.

14. The package in accordance with claim 12 further including an openable cover on said pouch initially enclosing at least a portion of said spout.

15. The package in accordance with claim 12 further including an openable cover in the form of a separate exterior lid that is initially mounted on said spout to occlude said dispensing passage and that can be moved to open said dispensing passage.

16. A package comprising: a collapsible pouch defined by at least two, opposing, flexible web portions that are sealed together adjacent an interior region which is unsealed and that are separated at a peripheral region to define an opening to the interior region;

a fitment that includes (A) a base sealingly secured to said web portions along said opening, (B) a spout extending from said base and terminating with an end defining a dispensing orifice, (C) a dispensing passage that extends from said interior region through said base and spout to said dispensing orifice, and (D) an inner surface around said dispensing passage; and

a flexible valve that (A) has a central wall with a self-sealing slit which opens to permit flow therethrough in response to increased pressure on the side of said valve facing the interior of said pouch, (B) has a peripheral flange laterally beyond, and connected to, said central wall, and (C) is disposed wholly within said fitment across said fitment dispensing passage with said valve flange sealingly engaged with said fitment inner surface.

17. The package in accordance with claim 16 in which said fitment base comprises a plurality of ribs sealingly secured to said web portions along said opening.

18. The package in accordance with claim 16 further including an openable cover on said pouch initially enclosing at least a portion of said spout.

19. The package in accordance with claim 16 further including an openable cover in the form of a separate exterior lid that is initially mounted on said spout to occlude said dispensing passage and that can be moved to open said dispensing passage.

STATEMENT OF STATUS OF ALL
PATENT CLAIMS AND ALL ADDED CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c), the following claims are pending: 1-8 (as in the original patent as issued), and new claims 9-19 (as set forth in this Preliminary Amendment filed with this reissue application).

No claims have been canceled.

EXPLANATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE NEW CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c), the table below explains the support in the patent specification and Figures for the new claims. Additional support for the new claims may also be present in other specification portions and Figures that are not identified in the table below.

| Amended And New Claims | Figures | Specification | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------|------------|
| | | Column | Lines |
| New Claim 9 | 1-15 | 1 | 59-67 |
| | | 2 | 1-3, 34-58 |
| | | 5 | 51-67 |
| | | 6 | 1-67 |
| | | 7 | 1-67 |
| | | 8 | 1-67 |
| | | 9 | 1-47 |
| | | 12 | 44-51 |

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| Amended And New Claims | Figures | Specification | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------|------------|
| | | Column | Lines |
| New Claim 10 | 1-15 | 1 | 59-67 |
| | | 2 | 1-3, 34-58 |
| | | 5 | 51-67 |
| | | 6 | 1-67 |
| | | 7 | 1-67 |
| | | 8 | 1-67 |
| | | 9 | 1-47 |
| | | 12 | 44-51 |
| New Claim 11 | 15 | 1 | 59-67 |
| | | 2 | 1-3, 34-58 |
| | | 5 | 51-67 |
| | | 6 | 1-67 |
| | | 7 | 1-67 |
| | | 8 | 1-67 |
| | | 9 | 1-47 |
| | | 12 | 44-51 |
| New Claim 12 | 1-15 | 1 | 59-67 |
| | | 2 | 1-3, 34-58 |
| | | 5 | 51-67 |
| | | 6 | 1-67 |
| | | 7 | 1-67 |
| | | 8 | 1-67 |
| | | 9 | 1-47 |
| | | 12 | 44-51 |
| New Claim 13 | 1-15 | 1 | 59-67 |
| | | 2 | 1-3, 34-58 |
| | | 5 | 51-67 |
| | | 6 | 1-67 |
| | | 7 | 1-67 |
| | | 8 | 1-67 |
| | | 9 | 1-47 |
| | | 12 | 44-51 |

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| Amended And New Claims | Figures | Specification | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------|------------|
| | | Column | Lines |
| New Claim 14 | 1-15 | 1 | 59-67 |
| | | 2 | 1-3, 34-58 |
| | | 5 | 51-67 |
| | | 6 | 1-67 |
| | | 7 | 1-67 |
| | | 8 | 1-67 |
| | | 9 | 1-47 |
| | | 12 | 44-51 |
| New Claim 15 | 1-15 | 1 | 59-67 |
| | | 2 | 1-3, 34-58 |
| | | 5 | 51-67 |
| | | 6 | 1-67 |
| | | 7 | 1-67 |
| | | 8 | 1-67 |
| | | 9 | 1-47 |
| | | 12 | 44-51 |
| New Claim 16 | 1-15 | 1 | 59-67 |
| | | 2 | 1-3, 34-58 |
| | | 5 | 51-67 |
| | | 6 | 1-67 |
| | | 7 | 1-67 |
| | | 8 | 1-67 |
| | | 9 | 1-47 |
| | | 12 | 44-51 |
| New Claim 17 | 1-15 | 1 | 59-67 |
| | | 2 | 1-3, 34-58 |
| | | 5 | 51-67 |
| | | 6 | 1-67 |
| | | 7 | 1-67 |
| | | 8 | 1-67 |
| | | 9 | 1-47 |
| | | 12 | 44-51 |


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| | | | |
|--------------|------|---------------------------------------|---|
| New Claim 18 | 1-15 | 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 | 59-67 1-3, 34-58 51-67 1-67 1-67 1-67 1-47 44-51 |
| New Claim 19 | 1-15 | 1 2 5 6 7 8 9 12 | 59-67 1-3, 34-58 51-67 1-67 1-67 1-67 1-47 44-51 |

Respectfully submitted,

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